

## Bureau of Land Management Arizona Strategic Goals (9.22.10) Summary

### Overview

The Arizona Strategies replace State Director priorities in the annual budget process with long term direction that will guide priority setting. The strategies reflect current Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management strategic direction, knowledge of Arizona BLM workload, expected funding, and citizen expectations as identified in the results of *The Arizona We Want*.

**Themes** There are three common themes which thread through all the Arizona Strategies:

1. **Communities** of people are at the center of developing and delivering long term solutions to meeting social and legal expectations for public lands.
2. Sustainability, Heritage and Community all imply handing off to succeeding generations; attention to **engaging and preparing youth** for future roles and responsibilities is essential.
3. Successful strategies require choices that **place priority on, and direct capacity** to, focused, coordinated work on shared goals that cut across programs and our agency mission to manage public lands.

### Guiding Principles

1. The Arizona Strategies set a framework of priorities that reflect the specific role Arizona BLM can play in advancing the Agency mission and the Secretary's priorities.
2. The Arizona Strategies guide priority setting for all functions when combined with applicable budget, legal and technical guidelines.
3. Level of investment in strategies reflects discretion, agency capacity and partner participation. Non-strategic program work, necessary to the mission, will still occur.
4. All strategic work has program value, but not all program work has strategic priority.
5. Implementation of the Arizona Strategies requires honest communication, listening for expectations, focus on outcomes, common sense and cooperation.
6. The Arizona Strategies will seek to promote cost-effective actions which are legal, ethical, consistent with the BLM mission, and in the public interest.
7. Accountability for performance will be tracked to ensure cost-effective implementation and effectiveness.

## **Goal 1: Sustainability of Public Lands**

### **Water (Living Desert Rivers)**

- Assess conditions, trends and risks for quality and quantity of water, and the related effects on Arizona public lands - including effects on vegetation, wildlife, fish, and land uses by people.
- Engage or participate in formal processes to conserve and protect water related values on public lands.
- Support community-based partnerships engaged in mitigation and restoration actions to stabilize or reverse downward trends affecting surface waters on public lands in Arizona.
- Prioritize 10 living Arizona streams to focus effort and available resources.

### **Ecological Function (Biological Communities)**

- Integrate interagency data to create a statewide assessment of ecological conditions, trends and risks.
- Using assessment data, geographically prioritize conservation and restoration actions on public lands based on potential to improve ecological function.
- Engage with communities and interests to create partnerships that advance geographic priorities to improve ecological function.
- Evaluate effectiveness of actions and priorities and apply adaptive management strategies as needed to meet goals.

### **Climate Change**

- Participate in interagency mitigation and adaptive measures developed through the DOI Landscape Conservation Cooperative and Climate Change Response Centers.

### **Working Landscapes**

- Create a system for geographically-based research, assessment and best-management-practices (BMP) development related to land use authorizations on public lands.
- Integrate interagency, statewide data and establish GIS capacity for analysis and processing of authorizations.
- Periodically assess the effectiveness of feedback and evaluation processes related to land use authorizations.

## **Stewardship of Heritage Resources**

### **National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS)**

- Support, protect and promote conservation values identified in proclamations and legislation for NLCS lands.
- Raise the quality of community relations with gateway communities, local residents, Friends Groups, tribes, universities, interest groups and public at large.
  - Use the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NLCS as a focus to launch and expand community involvement.
  - Establish Gateway Community Information services with local organizations and friends groups tailored to address NLCS visitors
- Increase engagement of youth on NLCS landscapes through employment, environmental education and community service.

### **Tribal Relations**

- Establish, maintain and continuously improve government-to-government tribal communications based on jointly developed expectations;
- Develop line manager relationships with Tribal leadership to increase understanding, communication, community interactions, and personal trust.
- Collaborate with tribes on projects and issues of common interest.

### **Heritage Properties**

- Establish a statewide framework for community-based, field-level stewardship of cultural values and sites.

## **Support Community Use**

### **Sustainable Energy**

- Participate with landowners, business, scientists, conservation interests, and government in the development of renewable energy strategies and projects.
- Contribute to Arizona community power demands and state goals for development of renewable energy on public lands. State goals include a 15% renewable energy target.
- Ensure a full array of locations and concepts for solar and wind energy generation and transmission are considered in statewide decisions about the footprint of renewable energy.
- Focus effort on potential generation sites and transmission alignments that optimize natural resource values (including water and wildlife) on public lands together with technical and economic requirements.
- Clarify and analyze potential effects of uranium mining in Northern Arizona.

### **Community Infrastructure**

- Improve the system-level consistency of road, trail, and signing infrastructure on public lands.
- Where appropriate, integrate BLM infrastructure with that provided by state and local government into a shared public system.
- Maintain relations with local, state and regional government to support planning needs and appropriate authorizations for community support infrastructure.
- Collaborate on implementation of projects of common need and interest with communities and partners on public lands.

### **Recreation**

- Identify, plan and implement partnered-delivery initiatives with public recreation providers such as Arizona State Parks and local communities.
- Package mapping, signing and visitor information geographically and in partnership with communities and place-based coalitions.
- Extend volunteer roles in delivery of recreation services to developing a broadly applied, citizen-based cadre of citizen recreation workers.

## **Public Safety**

### **US-Mexico Border**

- Provide a safe and secure environment.
- Protect public land resources and values from the effects of smuggling.
- Coordinate and collaborate with others working on border safety, security and environmental protection, especially the US Border Patrol.
- Work to increase cross-border cooperation on ecosystem health, tourism and human safety.

### **Abandoned Mines**

- Inventory abandoned mines on public lands for safety hazards and bat habitat.
- Prioritize remediation projects based on safety hazards.
- Implement remediation projects , employing bat gates (or similar) as appropriate.
- Improve condition of natural and cultural resources in cooperation with tribes and agencies.

## **Operational Excellence**

### **Budget Effectiveness**

- Emphasize Arizona Strategies to the extent discretion allows in budget requests, allocation and performance accountability.
- Implement budget monitoring tools to track expenditures and, in combination with workload accomplishment data, to monitor cost effectiveness.
- Develop and implement cost reduction plans that improve capacity to accomplish Arizona Strategies.
- Places emphasis on out-year planning to meet Arizona Strategy goals.

### **Employee Development**

- Emphasize the Arizona Strategies in workforce planning and development.
- Design and implement workforce monitoring tools including demographic trends, attrition, and recruitment results.
- Develop and implement employee workforce and employee development initiatives including youth involvement, training, mentoring and recruitment projects.
- Place emphasis on multi-year workforce development.

### **Process Improvement**

- Improve the Geographic Information System (GIS) capability in the state, focusing on data integrations, standards and stewardship.
- Develop Best Management Practices to improve the efficiency and consistency of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) throughout BLM-Arizona.

### **Partnerships and Volunteers**

- Utilize partnerships and volunteers as an integral part of the mission delivery of all Arizona Strategies and programs.